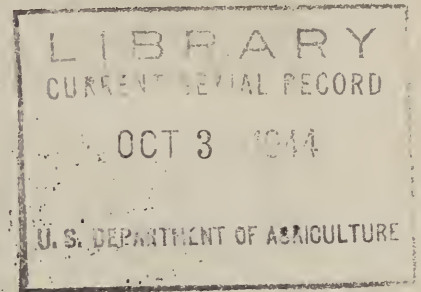


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WAF FOOD ADMINISTRATION
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FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE



HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS

Week ending June 30, 1944

WEATHER

There have been no reports of any disturbing weather conditions in the Western Region states during the past week. The weather for the most part has stepped into a more normal routine.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Apricots: OPA and WFA have announced a grower price on apricots of \$89 per ton as a state average for canned and frozen apricots in California. This is a \$44 increase over the estimated 1941 state average of \$45 per ton. For the four apricot growing districts, prices named range from \$80 per ton to \$100 per ton for size 12s or larger apricots with differentials of \$14 to \$16 less for size 16s or larger, depending upon the district.

Daily shipments from California and Washington are now running at about 30 cars. A total of 644 have been shipped interstate this season to date, compared with 310 for the same period last year. The total crop for California this year has been estimated at 289,000 tons and that for Washington at 22,200 tons. These figures make the California crop 72,500 tons greater, and Washington's crop 8,800 tons greater than their 1943 crops.

On the San Francisco wholesale market Royals, at the close of the week, were bringing from 5 cents to 8 cents per pound; at Los Angeles 6 cents to 7 cents, and at Portland 13 cents per pound.

Support prices for dried apricots have also been announced. They range from 24 cents to 32½ cents per pound, depending upon the type and grade, with Jumbo Grade Type 1 set at 32½ cents and Slabs Type III, the lowest, 24 cents.

Peaches: Total 1944 U. S. production of peaches has been estimated at 67,427,000 bushels, compared with 42,180,000 bushels in 1943. Of the 1944 production, Western Region states are contributing an estimated 33,268,000 bushels, with the production for California set at 28,961,000 bushels, consisting of 17,418,000 bushels of clingstones and 11,543,000 bushels of freestones.

To date this season, carlot shipments for the United States total 1746, compared with 1040 last season for the same period. Of this, the Western Region has shipped but 17 cars compared with 35 cars last season.

Support prices for dried peaches in California announced June 30 are \$330 per ton for clingstones, and \$440 for freestones.

Pears: Production of pears in the United States for 1944 has been estimated at 27,825,000 bushels or 685,625 tons, and for the Western Region states 470,450 tons. This is a June first estimate and weather conditions may cause some changes.

Pears also have been added to the 1944 price supported group in California, with Lake County pears supported at \$360 per ton and pears from other sections at \$330 per ton for the dried fruit.

Potatoes: U. S. No. 1 size A potatoes from the Wasco-Shafter section of Kern County, California moved up to and maintained the \$2.50 fob level most of this last week, with demand and market good. Fresno, Madera, and Tulare Counties, have not fared so well as Kern County on the potato deal. Prices there have not remained at support level, and the percentage of number one stock has been relatively low. Shipments in these areas are now commencing to drop off, and it is expected the season may be completed prior to July 15. To date, Kern county has moved 23,023 cars, compared with 18,792 cars for the same period in 1943.

Onions: Onion supplies in the Western Region continue heavy, with a considerable storage of red onions in Stockton, California, needing an outlet. Fob prices are reported as ranging from \$1.35 per cwt. for reds to \$2.50 per cwt. for Yellow globe and White Wax at San Joaquin Valley points and in the Coachella Valley, California. While onion supplies are not on "the surplus side" they are definitely plentiful. The wholesale markets remain unchanged over last week, and are from 25 cents to 75 cents higher than the fob prices.

DAIRY AND POULTRY

Poultry: The markets throughout the west have been heavily supplied with fowl and there has been some difficulty in finding outlets, especially for Leghorn hens, grade B and lower quality stock. Fryers and broilers have been readily taken up. Paying prices to producers declined further from last week, ranging from 24 cents to 26 cents for colored fowl, and as low as 16 cents for Leghorn hens.

Eggs: Top quality large and medium eggs have advanced in demand and price on most of the markets. Small eggs are continuing to present an outlet difficulty. This is also the case with Grade B and lower qualities. Production in most of the areas has decreased and it is expected that continued warm weather will further decrease production. On the four Western markets, wholesale prices on Large Grade A eggs ranged from 38½ cent low in Portland to a 42½ cent high in San Francisco for Friday's sales.

Butter: Production of butter has further declined during the past week, and although the set-aside for July is but 45 percent, 5 percent below that for June, the decline in production has been sufficient to make civilian supplies less than for June. Receipts in the three western wholesale markets this week were 1,141,742 pounds, compared with 972,999 pounds for the week previous and 1,676,307 pounds for the same period last year.

GRAIN PRODUCTS

Rice: During this past week, about 20,000 pockets (100 lbs. each) of milled rice were shipped from government stocks to South Carolina distributors.

Progress of the 1944 crop has been generally favorable, but in some southern sections rain is needed and in California cool weather has retarded growth.

Barley: Prices and demand for barley on the Pacific Coast were weaker as the week progressed, with No. 1 Bright Western quoted at \$2.47½ to \$2.57½ per 100 pounds, sacked basis. In Middlewestern markets, the same grade was quoted at \$2.87½ per 100 pounds.

Wheat: Prospects for a good wheat crop in the Pacific Northwest have improved. Wheat there is beginning to "turn". Stem rust in the Mid-west belt has been halted by hot dry weather, and it is expected that damage will be light. With the harvest of a billion bushel crop in progress, farm prices have declined as much as 4 cents per bushel since the middle of May. \$1.60 was the approximate average price of all grades and classes at the leading markets the middle of June. With a good crop of spring wheat in prospect, prices have dropped approximately 6 cents per bushel.

Alfalfa: Alfalfa-growing sections of the west report good growing conditions and good crops to date. The Pacific Northwest, however, has experienced some difficulty from rain damage to hay still in the field, due to rain. That area has also had good pasturage conditions which have slowed the demand for alfalfa hay. This is in contrast to areas farther south, especially in southern California where demand is strong and markets have remained firm with certified U. S. No. 1 hay selling at \$31.50 to \$33.50 per ton in Los Angeles. In Portland, the price at the close of the week was \$34.00 to \$35.00 for No. 2 or better grade.

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

Cattle: The twelve principal livestock markets reported, at the close of the week, receipts of 191,700 head of cattle, 2936 head greater than receipts for the previous week and 35 percent greater than for the same period last year.

Grass fat cattle are reaching markets in increasing numbers and are being moved much earlier than last year.

Receipts of cattle in the five Western Region markets for the past week have exceeded receipts for the previous week by approximately 500 head, but were considerably under those for the same period last year. For the most part, these markets were quite active with a good demand. Good grass fat steers reached a top of \$15.10 in San Francisco. All the markets in the West reported some grass fat steer sales as low as \$13.50.

Hogs: Receipts of hogs on the principal markets totaled 456,300 head for this past week, 9125 head less than for the week previous. This trend was also reflected in the west, except in the Northwest where receipts were heavier and sales were slow. The top range on good to choice 180 to 270 pound barrows was from \$13.75 to \$15.00.

Sheep: Oregon, California, and Idaho have been the main sources of spring lambs arriving on the western markets this past week. San Francisco receipts for the week were approximately 19,000 head, a five year record. Prices on that market declined 25 cents to 50 cents from the top of \$14.75 for the week previous. Other western markets remained at about the same level, or a top of \$15.00

COTTON: Weather conditions have been favorable for good growth and prospects are for a good crop. However, reports indicate that rain is needed in the southern belt. Sales on the "10 markets" were reported as being 117,100 bales, 24,600 above those for the week previous, with prices strong and reaching a new-16 year high of 21.66 cents for Middling 15/16 inch staple on June 30.

